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Dated: September 14, 2004      Signature: Kathryn L. Nash  
Kathryn L. Nash

Docket No.: 65229-0010/GP-301542  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Michael Douglas et al.

Application No.: 09/656,677

Art Unit: 2125

Filed: September 7, 2000

Examiner: GANDHI, Jayprakash N..

For: METHOD FOR EARLY OPTIMIZATION OF A  
MANUFACTURING SYSTEM DESIGN

**RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicant hereby responds to the Office Action dated June 27, 2004 ("Office Action") as follows:

A **Current Listing of Claims** is reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this paper.

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